Amandla! Awethu!

“The Power is Ours”

The Liberation Struggle to End Apartheid



Agenda

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Opening

Student Activism in Soweto

02

A South African Tradition

The continuous resistance to colonization, apartheid, and ongoing economic oppression

03

A Transatlantic Phenomena

The shared practices between the U.S. and South Africa of Black student activism, the Black Power Movement & The Black Consciousness Movement

04

Closing

Dancing for liberation: The Toyi Toyi

Opening

Watch the clip from the 1992 Sarafina! film about the Soweto Uprisings in 1976. Describe the scene. What do you notice? What resonates with you re: elicits strong anger, fear, passion, inspiration?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SjxNtDpRXYg



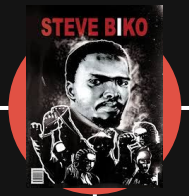
Timeline of Resistance in South Africa

17th-19th Centuries:

Resistance in South Africa includes the indigenous Khoisan fighting against colonization, land conquest and enslavement by the Dutch, and King Shaka and the Zulu kingdom fighting against the British

The African National & Pan African Congresses

The ANC was formed in 1912 as the South African Native National Congress and has been in power since 1994, after South Africa voted to end apartheid and institute democracy



The Black Consciousness Movement

The BCM is founded in 1972, spearheaded by university student Bantu Stephen Biko



The Soweto Uprisings

The massive uprising of thousands of K-12 students in the largest Township, The South Western Township, launches on June 16, 1976

The Reasons for Revolution

Extreme Land Dispossession

By the late 1970s, 3.5 million Black, Colored (Coloured) and Indian people were removed to make way for whites

Extreme State Violence

The regular police and security police systematically detained, tortured and murdered Black South African children, women and men

1

2

3

4

Extreme Poverty

The majority of the population, indigenous Black South Africans, lived on reserves in extreme poverty with lack of electricity, running water, and basic services like trash collection

Extreme Education Disparities

Black University students created the South African Student Organization (SASO) and K-12 students protested the imposition of solely being taught Afrikaans, which led to the Soweto Uprisings

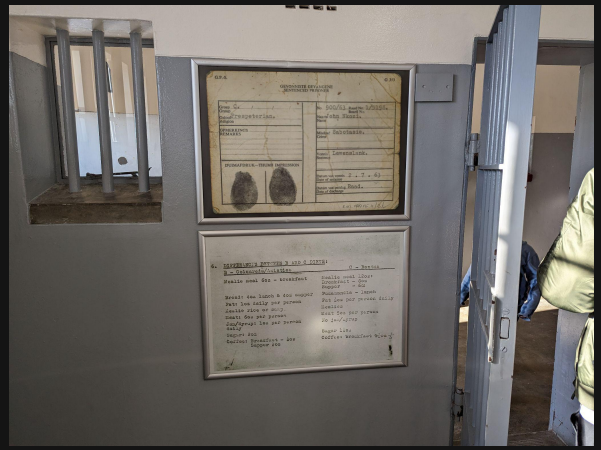
Stoking the Fires of Resistance: Political Imprisonment of Key Anti-Apartheid Activists

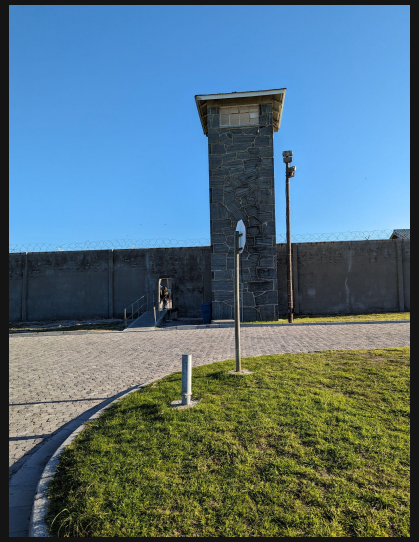
- Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, imprisoned for 27 years
- Robert Sobukwe, imprisoned for 9 years after the government passed the “Sobukwe Clause” in the General Law Amendment Act
- Hundreds of Soweto uprising students activists as young as 12-13



Robben Island, The "Alcatraz" of South Africa

This is an island where many political prisoners such as Nelson Mandela, Robert Mokubwe, and Soweto Uprising activists were incarcerated. It is located close to the city of Cape Town.

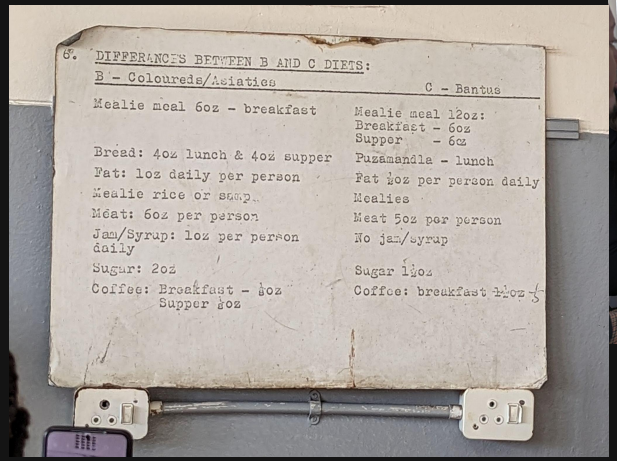






One of Many: Soweto Uprising and Anti-Apartheid Activist Deden

Deden was incarcerated on Robben Island as a political prisoner due to his anti-Apartheid activism starting with the Soweto Uprisings. His first experience with the Apartheid police began when he was only 12 years old and he had an emergency that caused him to use a whites-only public restroom. He was so brutally beaten that he did not regain consciousness until 2 weeks after being detained by security police. He stated that Steve Biko was a great teacher and influencer who inspired the K-12 students and eventually culminated in protests all over the country. He returned to the island to become a tour guide.











The Assassination that caused worldwide condemnation of Apartheid:

Steve Biko, University Student Activist and founder of the Black Consciousness Movement

Steve Biko was brutally tortured for nearly 3 weeks, and finally died on September 12, 1977 after security police transported his naked, shackled, unconscious body more than 700 miles away and left him at hospital where he was not treated.

- He was nationally and internationally renowned, having met with dignitaries
- He was influenced by the U.S. Black Power Movement
- His murder contributed to the world turning against apartheid

The Soweto Uprisings: The Death Knoll of Apartheid

Watch the video and answer the following questions:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=olITV9xCpqs

1. What did the Apartheid police do to youth on June 16, 1976?
2. Where did this take place?
3. Why did Black students protest on this day?
4. What did they associate the language with?
5. What did the protests mark “the fall and demise of”?
6. What does Youth Day commemorate?
7. What does Patience Thendo state about the youth of today?

Ancestral Resistance through Dance & Chant: The Toyi Toyi & Amandla! Awethu!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VIxhrDf8Iv0





Background & Instructional Video-Toyi Toyi

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XPuQBqNhH1M

The tradition of dancing for communal and ritual purposes is a part of ancestral and current-day indigenous South African practices. There were songs and dances done:

- ★ By warriors preparing for war
- ★ During weddings
- ★ By young people courting
- ★ Done after successful hunting
- ★ Done after menstruation began
- ★ Done during funerals

The Toyi Toyi was brought by Zimbabweans, who learned it from Algeria. Zimbabweans were once a part of the Zulu empire and moved to current-day Zimbabwe. They speak isiZulu.

Bringing it Together: Full Circle

Instructions: We will dance the Toyi Toyi with traditional (and modern versions of traditional) indigenous instruments along with this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TaJY8g4ilZ8

- Students who choose to play and dance with the instruments will form a circle around everyone who chooses to dance without an instrument
- Dance the Toyi Toyi to the best of your ability! The videos show groups doing so with their knees at different levels.
- Ubuntu encompasses all aspects of a community's/nation's life. In the case of the Toyi Toyi, it inspires everyone to collective action around a common vision and goal: FREEDOM : Inkululeko through POWER: Amandla. This is one (vision and purpose) for all, and all for one (shared vision and purpose). This is Ubuntu in liberation

Reflection/Exit Ticket:

Write how you felt emotionally and physically when you took part in the group dancing of Toyi Toyi and playing of indigenous instruments.

Bearing the Fruit of the Liberation Movement in South Africa

Apartheid was Repealed

June 17, 1991

Nelson Mandela was Released from prison

February 11, 1990

Democratic Elections were held

April 27, 1994

Education Reform

Bantu Education was ended and South Africa has a national curriculum

Apartheid Legalized Segregation ended

Black Political Parties & Elected Officials rose to power

The ANC (African National Congress has held the majority of power from 1994 until 2022



South Africa National Anthem & Pan African Liberation Anthem: Nkosi Sikelel ' iAfrika

–https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5h01eu7XxNg


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